

Annual Report
TO THE
NORMAN CROSS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR
1908

BY
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Medical Officer of Health for the Norman Cross
Rural District.



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TO

**The Norman Cross Rural
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1908 on the vital statistics and sanitary condition of your District.

WATER SUPPLY.

This Council has spent a good deal of time this year in attempting to improve the water supply of the villages in the Southern portion of the District.

Negotiations were entered into with the Borough Council of Peterborough to supply the village of Farcet, but this scheme proved impracticable. The Council has, therefore, confined its action to further improving the sanitation of the villages of Farcet and Yaxley, and so prevent ground pollution of the present supply. As the Surveyor's Report shows new portions of sewers have been laid where needed, and a notice is being sent to the householders pointing out the manner in which the present surface wells are liable to pollution, and asking them to assist the Council in preventing contamination.

This portion of the District is a difficult one in which to get a different supply. The subsoil is Oxford clay, overlying boulder clay, and other clays, to a great depth. During this year a private bore was sunk in the parish of Yaxley, to a depth of over 300 feet (all in clay), with a negative result. The same difficulty occurs in the village of Folksworth, and this being a very small village the Council has decided to improve the present supply. The brook supplying the present reservoir is being cleared, and the Surveyor has prepared plans for filtering the water.

The action thus taken should very much improve the water supply of these villages.

The supply at Stilton is now of sufficient quantity and of good quality.

SANITATION.

The Inspector's Statement of sanitary work done during the year is appended to this Report.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of births registered during the year (Table 1, col. 3) is 111, a number considerably lower than the two preceding years, and giving a birth rate of 19·61 per 1,000 of the total population of the District as compared with 24·01 and 27·74, the rates for the two preceding years.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered (Table 1, col. 7) is 70, a rate of 12·36. To these must be added 4 deaths (Table 1, col. 11) of persons belonging to the District, whose deaths occurred in institutions outside the District, making a total of 74 deaths and a corrected death rate of 13·07, a slightly lower figure than last year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

In Table V. is given the particulars of deaths among children under 1 year of age. Fifteen such deaths were registered; nine under 1 month of age, four of which were prematurely born. The total of 15 gives an infant mortality of 135·13 per 1,000 births registered, a high infant mortality for a Rural District.

This high infant mortality is no doubt principally accounted for by the altered standard of living among the working classes, brought about by the bad state of the brick-making industry.

POPULATION.

It will be noticed that in calculating all the above rates I have taken the same population as last year (5,659) as the basis. Although there is a natural increase of 37, the emigration of several families, owing to depression in the brick industry, has quite counter-balanced the increase, and leads me to give the same estimate as last year.

ZYMOTIC INCIDENCE & DEATH RATE.

Thirteen cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year :—Scarlet Fever 10, Diphtheria 1, Enteric Fever 2. All these cases were visited, means taken to isolate those affected, the houses disinfected on recovery, and in no case did the disease spread beyond the house in which it first appeared, and no deaths were recorded.

SCARLET FEVER.

The 10 cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed as follows :—

Six cases in two houses in Farcet Fen in January ; five in one house and one in the other. These two outbreaks were quite separate and distinct.

Three cases in one house in Holme Fen in September, and one case at Orton Longueville in May.

DIPHTHERIA.

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified in the year, and, though a severe one, the patient made a complete recovery. No other case followed.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases of Enteric Fever occurred ; one at Waternewton in May, and the other at Stilton in September. Both recovered.

ERYSIPELAS.

No case of Erysipelas has been notified.

MEASLES.

Measles not being notifiable, no statistics are available ; but to my knowledge the District has been remarkably free from this disease, considering the number of cases which have occurred in neighbouring Districts.

SMALL POX.

No case of Small Pox has occurred in the District. I am pleased to see that since my note on the subject of Vaccination last year the Guardians have taken action with a result which is highly satisfactory.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Whooping Cough has been very prevalent in the whole of the District, and in Alwalton it was found advisable to close the Elementary Schools for a period of six weeks. No death has been registered from this disease.

INFLUENZA.

This disease I find still with us. In the early part of the Spring it was prevalent all over the District, and was then of a somewhat severe respiratory type. No deaths were recorded.

PHTHISIS.

The death rate from this disease is practically the same as last year. The new order of the Local Government Board, with regard to notification of this disease, is a very useful aid in dealing with it. The houses will now be disinfected in all notified cases in the District.

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer.—Cancer also claimed the same number of victims as last year (7).

Diarrhæa.—One death from this cause was registered, in a child under 1 year of age.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—There were 11 deaths due to these diseases.

Heart Disease.—Diseases of the Heart claimed seven victims, five of whom were over 65 years of age.

AGES AT DEATH.

Out of a total of 74 deaths registered (Table IV.) 30 were over 65 years of age, 40·54 per cent. of total deaths; 18 were over 70, 5 over 80, and 2 over 90. The greatest age registered being 94.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.

A total of 205 children have been examined during the year in 12 schools in the District.

On the average the children were well nourished, and their general nutrition is distinctly good.

The principal defects found were defective teeth and enlarged tonsils. In very few cases were defects of vision found. Scarcely any showed signs of rickets or congenital defects.

In cases where the parents attended, the defects were always pointed out to them and the necessary treatment advised, and in all cases a note to this effect was made in the space for "Directions to Parents and Teachers."

In the few cases of defective speech the parents and teachers were instructed how to get rid of the defect. This Act, if carried to its logical conclusions, should be of great benefit in improving the general health of the community.

The appended Report prepared by the Inspector of Nuisances shows the result of his work during the year.

Following the Inspector's Report will be found Tables I., II., III., IV., and V. of Statistics required by the Local Government Board, to which frequent reference is made in the body of this Report: also is attached Form 572 relating to Factories and Workshops for the use of the Home Office.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. SPENCER COOPER,

*Medical Officer of Health
for the Norman Cross Rural District.*

Yaxley,

January 31st, 1909.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you a Summary of the Sanitary work done in your District between January 1st, 1908, and January 1st, 1909.

Notices served under Public Health Act.....	39
Nuisances from accumulation of manure.....	1
Nuisances from offensive privies	16
Nuisances from offensive drains	20
Nuisances from overcrowding	1
Other Nuisances.....	1
Public Health Water Act.....	4
Offensive Dykes.....	2

The Drainage of Stilton has been considerably improved during the past year.

In the parish of Yaxley an offensive Dyke has been piped in.

In the parish of Farcet considerable improvement has been made in Drainage, and a long length of Sewer, with proper Manholes, has been laid in the main street. I am pleased to see that the Parish appreciate the action of the Council in the Annual Expenditure of a sum of money in the laying of proper Sewers. A new length

in Bottom Street is now to be commenced, and in a short time the greater part of the populous portion of the Parish will be properly drained. In the case of this Parish, with an improved Drainage, must follow an improved Water Supply.

The Parish Wells this year will also receive attention, and it is hoped to free such from any possible source of pollution.

In the parish of Orton Waterville several Traps have been provided to Sewer in main street.

In the parish of Folksworth the Water Supply has received attention, and I have prepared plans, &c , for the filtration of the present supply.

In the parish of Holme a new Sewer, with Manholes, &c., has been laid.

Thirteen cases of Infectious Disease have been notified by the Medical Officer, and received my attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. WHITTAKER.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents regis- tered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents regis- tered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		No	Statistics	1898	to	1905.		No Public Institutions in the District.				
1906	5579	134	24·01	9	67·16	59	10·57	...	6	65	11·65	
1907	5659	158	27·74	16	101·26	65	11·48	...	10	75	13·25	
Averages for years 1898-1907 }												
1908	5659	111	19·61	15	135·13	70	12·36	...	...	4	74	13·07

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population,

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	} 29,609	Total population at all ages.....	5,579	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses ...	1,288	
		Average number of persons per house.....	4·33	

The Union Workhouse is not in the District.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year. <i>a.</i>	Births registered. <i>b.</i>	Deaths at all Ages. <i>c.</i>	Deaths under 1 year. <i>d.</i>
	No	Statistics	1898 to	1905.
1906	5,579	134	65	9
1907	5,659	158	75	16
Averages of years 1898 to 1907 }				
1908	5,659	111	74	15

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1908.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.	
Small Pox	Nil.
Cholera.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	10	...	1	4	4	1	...	
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Relapsing Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	13	...	1	4	6	2	...	Nil.

Isolation Hospital—NIL.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Deaths at the subjoined ages of “Residents” whether occurring in or beyond the District.								Total Deaths whether of “Resi- dents” or “non- Residents” in Public Institutions in the District.
					All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	No Public Institutions in the District.				
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	6	1	...	1	...	2	2	...					
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	7	...	...	1	...	4	2	...			
Bronchitis	4	2	...	...	...	1	1	...		
Pneumonia	7	...	3	1	...	...	3	...			
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver													
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases... ..	7	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	
Accidents	4	...	...	1	...	3	...	...			
Suicides	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...		
All other causes	29	6	...	2	1	5	15	...					
ALL CAUSES	74	15	3	6	2	18	30	...					

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., IV., and V., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

H. SPENCER COOPER,

Date, January 30th, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE V.

Name of District—NORMAN CROSS RURAL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{	Certified ...	...	7	...	...	1	8	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	14
	{	Uncertified	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	{	Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Chicken Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ii. Diarrhœal Diseases.	{	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
iii. Wasting Diseases.	{	Premature Birth ...	...	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
		Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Want of Breast-milk, Starvation }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	{	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Other Tuberculous Diseases }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
		Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
v. Other Causes.	{	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Convulsions ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Bronchitis ...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
		Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
				8	...	...	1	9	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	15

District of Norman Cross.

Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 5659.

Births in the year { legitimate 103.
illegitimate 8.Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 12.
illegitimate infants 3.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 74.

ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
 FOR THE YEAR 1908,
For the Rural District of Norman Cross,
 On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
 in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES,
and HOMEWORK.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).			
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in part 3 of this Report).	9	Nil.	Nil.
Total	9	Nil.	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	Nil.	Nil.
Other defects and offences	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

No Registered Workshops in District.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

H. SPENCER COOPER,

*Medical Officer of Health.**Date, January 31st, 1909.*

